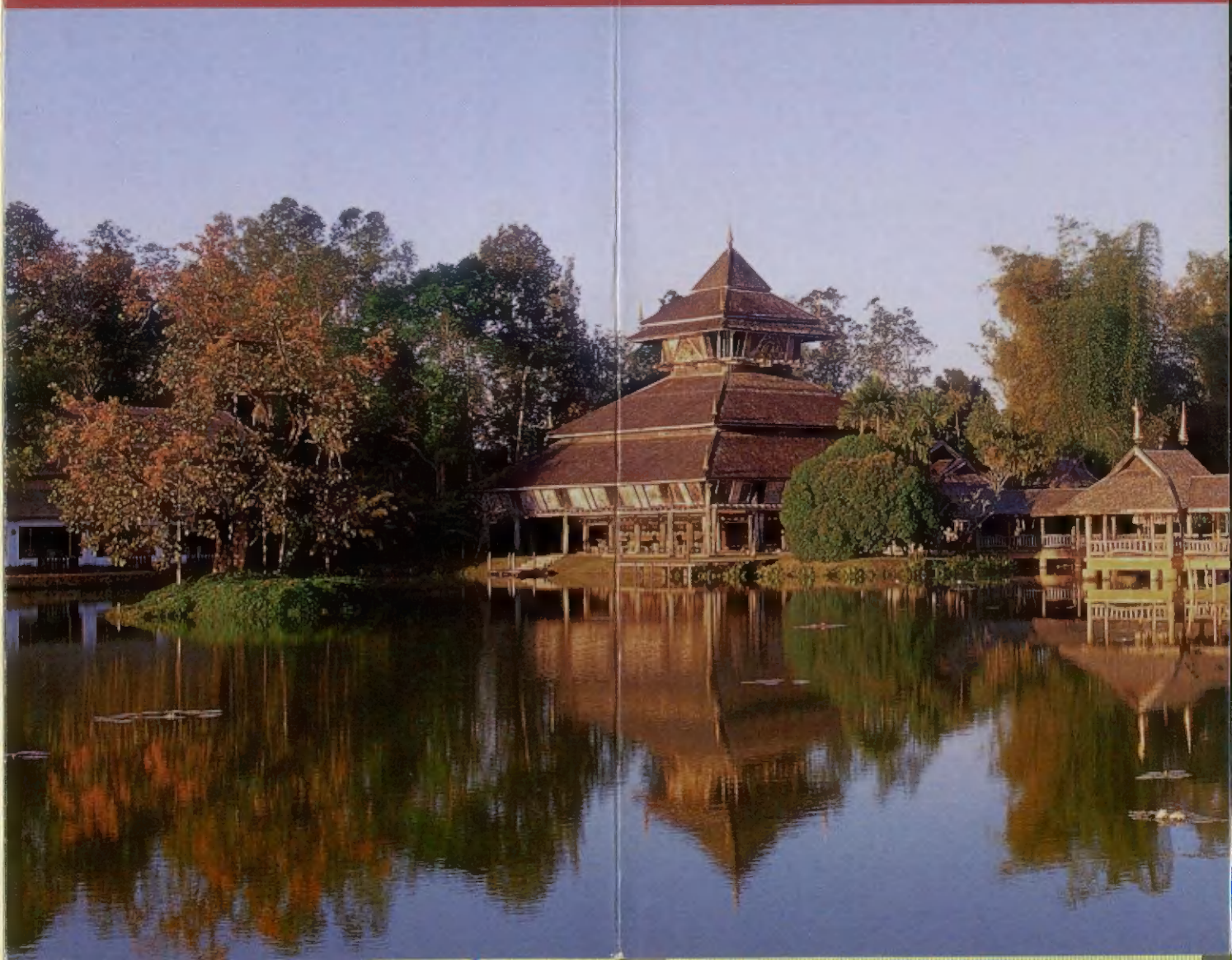




Mae Fah Luang Foundation

Rai Mae Fah Luang

The Art and Cultural Park





Lanna today encompasses the eight upper northern provinces of Thailand; Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phayao, Phrae, Nan, Lampang, Lamphun and Mae Hong Son.

The Kingdom of Lanna has been recognized for its rich cultural and historical heritage. Its traditions derive not only from the conventions and beliefs nascent in its local folk but are also partially acquired from the influences of places like the Shan States (Myanmar), Sipsongpanna (China) and Lan Xang (Lao PDR).

Situated on a plain to the west of Chiang Rai City, the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park was once a centre for education and development offering skills training to hill tribe youths from various villages in the northern region.

Today it has become an art and cultural haven in verdant grounds and has become a sanctuary for those who seek the contemplative peace inspired by its sublime natural surroundings and indigenous culture.

With an area of over 150 rai, the Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park serves as a venue for art exhibitions and cultural performances. It is also perfect for events of all type from receptions, conferences and seminars to even northern-style rituals and ceremonies that call for a solemn and austere ambience.



Haw Khum

Haw Khum was erected by the people of Chiang Rai to express their deep homage and gratitude to Somdej Phra Srinagarindara, the Princess Mother, on the occasion of her eighty-fourth birthday celebrations in 1984. A showcase of traditional Lanna architecture, the construction was undertaken by local carpenters from Chiang Rai and Phrae. The pavilion houses a vast collection of the finest religious and secular art objects such as Lanna and Burmese style Buddha images, exquisite carved wood candelabras, *tung kradang* or wooden standards and *khan dok* or containers for offerings of flowers, candles and incense-sticks. The Haw Khum's candle-lit interior invokes an atmosphere of sanctity and awe. Enshrined prominently is a wooden Buddha image, *Phra Pratoh* created in 1693, according to ancient inscriptions, by local villagers who had recently relocated to the area. As they were equipped only with rudimentary implements, the work lacks refinement but remains a solid testimony to faith and religious conviction.



Haw Khum Noi

A stroll through this wonderful park with its forested areas is an experience unlike any other. One of the highlights is a sculpture of H.R.H. the Princess Mother by the renowned artist Mysiem Yipinsoi. The pavilion known as the Haw Khum Noi is a laterite sanctuary with a tiled teak roof. On display here are the mural paintings in tempera on teak panels believed to have been created in the early part of the 19th century by Thai-Lue artists. The paintings depict scenes from the quaint way of life, attire, customs and culture of the Lanna folk of a bygone era.



Haw Kaew

From the Haw Khum Noi, heading south, one passes the herb garden to find a large gallery known as Haw Kaew, an area which is divided into two sections. One portion is used as the venue for activities-meeting, seminars or receptions. A veranda that juts into a spacious pond makes it an ideal place for parties and festive celebrations while the other portion is reserved for holding exhibitions of both traveling and permanent displays. The latter type features an exhibition of teak from both the botanical perspective and also that of its aesthetic potential.

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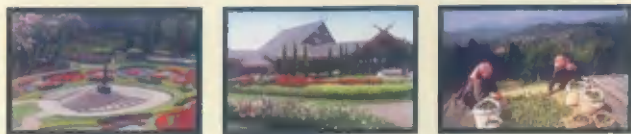
Tuesday - Sunday, 08:00 A.M. - 06:00 P.M.

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Tourist Attractions in the Vicinity



The Doi Tung Development Project

Visit Doi Tung Royal Villa, the Commemorative Hall of Princess Mother, Mae Fah Luang Garden renowned as one of Asia's most ravishing collections of flowering plants and shrubs, take a leisurely stroll through the Mae Fah Luang Arboretum, stop by the Doi Tung Development Project's Handicraft Center and observe hill tribe people at work cultivating coffee and macadamia nuts.

Accommodation

Doi Tung Lodge - A short distance away from the Doi Tung Royal Villa, nestling amidst the flora and fauna of the hills and forests of Doi Tung.

Tel. 053-767 015-7



The Hall of Opium, the Golden Triangle Park

Experience the marvels of interactive learning and explore all there is to know on the subject of opium, opiates and other narcotics in what is reputed to be one of the best museums in Asia.

Tel. 053-784 444-6

Accommodation

Greater Mae Khong Lodge - hillside rooms located in the Golden Triangle Park area.

Tel. 053-784 450



Map of Rai Mae Fah Luang, Doi Tung Development Project, Hall of Opium